

REMARKS

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of original claim 10. New claim 11 has been added. Claims 9 and 10 have been canceled. Support may be found in the specification on page 6, lines 13-19 and in original claim 10. The specification has been amended to correct a typographical error in a patent number.

Claims 1-8 and 11 are pending in the application. Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Fleischer et al. ('333). Claims 2-8 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim.

Applicants' invention, as defined in amended Claim 1, is an extrudable composition that comprises a certain non-fluorinated melt processable polymer and 25 to 2000 ppm of a fluoropolymer. The composition is free of interfacial agent. The fluoropolymer has a weight average particle size that is greater than 2 microns, but less than 10 microns. The non-fluorinated melt processable polymer is a hydrocarbon resin selected from the group consisting of i) polyethylenes, ii) polypropylene, iii) polybutene-1, iv) poly(3-methylbutene), v) poly(methylpentene), and vi) copolymers of ethylene with an alpha-olefin.

Surprisingly, the extrusion processability of the instant compositions is markedly superior to that of prior art compositions that contain a fluoropolymer having a smaller weight average particle size. This is demonstrated in Example 3 (pages 24-27) of the application wherein the extrusion processability, as represented by conditioning time and % melt fracture in extruded film, was measured for compositions of the invention and for comparative compositions that contained fluoropolymer have particle sizes of 2 microns or less. Results are summarized in Table VII, page 26.

Fleischer et al. discloses a thermoplastic composition composed essentially of A) 97 to 80 wt.% of a vinyl chloride polymer and B) 3 to 20 wt.% of a chlorinated polyethylene (CPE) wherein the chlorinated polyethylene is first mixed with 0.01 to 2 wt.% (relative to the CPE) of a finely divided fluoropolymer. The fluoropolymer has a particle size between 0.05 and 50 microns, preferably 0.1 to 10 microns (col. 2, lines 20-57).

The compositions of Fleischer et al. differ from those of Applicants' amended claim 1 in that the non-fluorinated melt processable polymers employed in Fleischer et al. are vinyl chloride polymers and chlorinated polyethylene, whereas in Applicants' claimed composition, the non-fluorinated melt processable polymer is a hydrocarbon resin. Furthermore, Fleischer et al. disclose that any fluoropolymer particle size between 0.05 and 50 microns may be

employed in their compositions. Applicants have determined that a narrow range (greater than 2 microns, but less than 10 microns) of fluoropolymer works surprisingly well as a process aid. Smaller particle size fluoropolymer does not produce the surprising improvement in extrusion processability that is demonstrated in Example 3 of the instant application. Larger particle size fluoropolymer causes surface distortions or internal flaws in the articles that is being extruded (page 9, lines 3-9).

Applicants note that the Information Disclosure Statement and accompanying PTO/SB/08 forms were not acknowledged in the first Office Action. This submission listed all the art that was cited in the parent application (09/953,638) and which Applicants would like to be listed on the first page of any patent issuing from the present application. Applicants' agent mailed the forms to the USPTO on September 23, 2003. Presumably, you received them after the first Office Action was mailed. If the forms are not in your file, please contact me so that I can submit duplicates.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants believe that claims 1-8 and 11 are patentable and that the application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration is requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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